Forty-one Reasons

Why Workingmen Should Support A. B. Ingram.

From the St. Thomas Labor Courier, December 23rd, 1886.

Because he has always taken a deep interest in the welfare of workingmen.

Because he knows the wants of workingmen, having himself experienced some of the oppression to which they are too frequently subjected

Because he can be depended on to work for the interests of workingmen in the future as he always has done in the past.

Because he has never been ashamed to work himself, and because he is able to sympathize with the horny handed sons of toil, he himself being one of their number.

Because he is the real friend of working men, and is just the man they need to represent their interests in parliament.

Because he has already taken a manly stand in labor's battle against monopoly and injustice and is able and willing to do so still.

Because, heretofore, he has acted thus manfully on behalf of his fellow workingmen without any hope of reward, and often at a sacrifice of money and time (which also means money to a workingman even more than it does to a rich one.)

Because his labors on behalf of his comrades merit some return on their part—a return that can be given at no cost to them though of much advantage to him and them alike.

Because, if this debt of workingmen is not paid to one who has disinterestedly labored in their behalf, they have no reason to expect that any other man should interest himself on their behalf as Mr. Ingram has done.

Because the charge of ingratitude has already too frequently been made against workingmen, and because in this case it would be suicidal for them to so act as to cause the charge to be repeated.

Because the election of lawyers to parliament has resulted in the passing of a species of legislation that has been of benefit to "classes" rather than to the "masses"

Because, therefore, it is the duty of workingmen, when they have it in their power to counteract this influence, to do so in no uncertain manner, by marking their ballots at the polls for a candidate whose duty it will be to oppose legislation that benefits individuals rather than the multitude.

Because no action can be taken by workingmen that will so strengthen their influence as will their united action in an election contest in which one of the candidates is one of themselves.

Because divisions on such an occasion afford an opportunity to enemies of the cause of labor to charge that workingmen never can act unitedly and do not appreciate the benefits of organization.

Because the principles of co-operation require that united action should be taken in a juncture of this kind, and because all ought to take co operative action to elect the candidate who will make it his study to serve them faithfully in Parliament.

Because at no period in the lifetime of the voters of 1886 has their actions been so closely scanned as at the present time by those whose business it is to endeavor to prevent any change in the condition of the people.

Because, therefore, any failure on the part of workingmen to act in unison now will be noted with great satisfaction by the enemies of labor.

Because the defeat of Andy B. Ingram would mean a long delay in the completion of the labors for the amelioration of the condition of workingmen that are voluntarily engaged in by men of Mr. Ingram's disposition.

Because he is an honest man, whose word has been regarded by his friends to be as good as his bond, and because he is everybody's friend and will do his best to promote the interests of all if elected to represent the people in Parliament.

Because Mr. Ingram has been compelled to forfeit his situation in order to prosecute his canvass in the contest in which he is now engaged, and because, if he is defeated, he will not be in a position to again secure his old position as an employee of the Grand Trunk Railway, the officers of the road having required him to choose whether he would continue to serve them or to contest the Riding of West Elgin for the Legislature.

Because Mr. Ingram's opponent is not so situated, he having a lucrative business to fall back upon if he is not the choice of the people of West Elgin in this contest.

Because very many workingmen in St. Thomas (Reformers as well as Conservatives) owe him their allegiance for the reason that, but for his indefatigable labors in their behalf, they would not enjoy the right to vote at this election, although the law of the land was intended to convey to them that right.

Because his opponents strongly opposed the motion made in Toronto recently with a view to have the franchise given to all to whom it justly belongs.

Because a very large majority of those to whom it was intended by that motion to confer the franchise are workingmen, who, but for the action of Andy B. Ingram, would to-day be disfranchised and unable to exercise the right which is so highly prized by all.

Because, after being beaten in Toronto in their attempt to disfranchise so many of the honest electors of the city, A. B. Ingram's opponents did not even then manifest any disposition to atone for their dishonesty and selfishness.

Because, after the holding of the Court of Revision, the time remaing before it was required that the lists should be completed rendered it impossible for the regular officials of the city to complete the lists without assistance, and because in this extremity it was Andy B. Ingram and his friends who personally labored day and night without cessation or rest until the task was completed.

Because in such an extremity no friends of Andy B. Ingram's opponent volunteered their support thus tacitly admitting their desire that the efforts of Mr. Ingram to enfranchise every workingman in the city entitled to vote might after all be defeated.

Because the action taken by Andy B. Ingram himself was disinterested, unselfish and honest, his desire being that all who have a right to vote should enjoy that privilege, regardless of what, their intention was in the matter of voting.

Because the disinterestedness was manifested by placing upon the lists by Mr. Ingram and his friends of many whom they knew to be politically opposed to them.

Because workingmen ought not to be less thoughtful and grateful than are other sections of he body politic, but ought to be prepared at the polls to remember those who remember their interests and labor for their weffare.

Because workingmen have in A. B. Ingram a candidate whom they can support feeling that he will never betray the trust reposed in him, but will be very watchful over all that pertains to the welfare of those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow on farms and in the workshops everywhere.

Because Mr. Ingram is a railway man and thoroughly conversant with the needs of men employed on railways in every capacity, and because it is desirable that a man possessing the knowledge he does should find a place in parliament to direct and suggest legislation to benefit the employees of railway corporations.

Because he has occupied a higher position than that of brakeman on the road, and because he has lost the same owing to the knowledge obtained by his employers that he was interesting himself to a considerable extent to better the condition of his comrades.

Because St. Thomas is a railroad city and has enjoyed class legislation long enough of a kind calculated to advance the interests of Mr. Ingram's opponent and others whom class legislation has more than fairly benefited.

Because a large number of Mr. Ingram's supporters, being railway employees, will be unable to vote, since trains must be run regardless of his interests; and because, therefore, some manifestation of sympathy should be manifested for him under such circumstances by those who are yet in doubt whom to vote for.

Because A. B. Ingram has never sought to influence the Courier to act on his behalf but has repeatedly told its publisher to do nothing to endanger the reputation of the Courier as a representative organ of labor or to effect the interests of those whom it represents.

Because it is a matter of doubt whether he can be elected, his opponent being a good man and the constituency strongly Reform, and because, therefore, workingmen should at least prove to him that they appreciate his past services on their behalf by giving him a large vote, if not a majority one.

Because other candidates who are supported by workingmen as labor nominees, will be elected by the united votes of men of both parties, and because the political predilections of those candidates are not regarded as a consideration by their supporters, who promise to vote for them regardless of whether their belief is that Mowat or Meredith is the more trusted friend of workingmen.

Because A. B Ingram cannot be elected unless it be by a very large vote of workingmen, and those who vote for him may reasonably expect him to adhere to the principles he has professed as an able advocate of the cause of labor in such representative positions as member of the District Assembly, President of the Trades and Labor Council, delegate to the General Assembly, and others.

Because Andy B. Ingram is a man of ability and worth, and has the brains to the voice to speak, the judgment to determine, and the courage to use these to the honor and for the good of his fellow workingmen.